

WEEKLY ADVICE FOR THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR DELTA SMELT

Monday, January 4, 2010

Recommendation for week of January 4:

The Smelt Working Group does not have a delta smelt recommendation at this time.

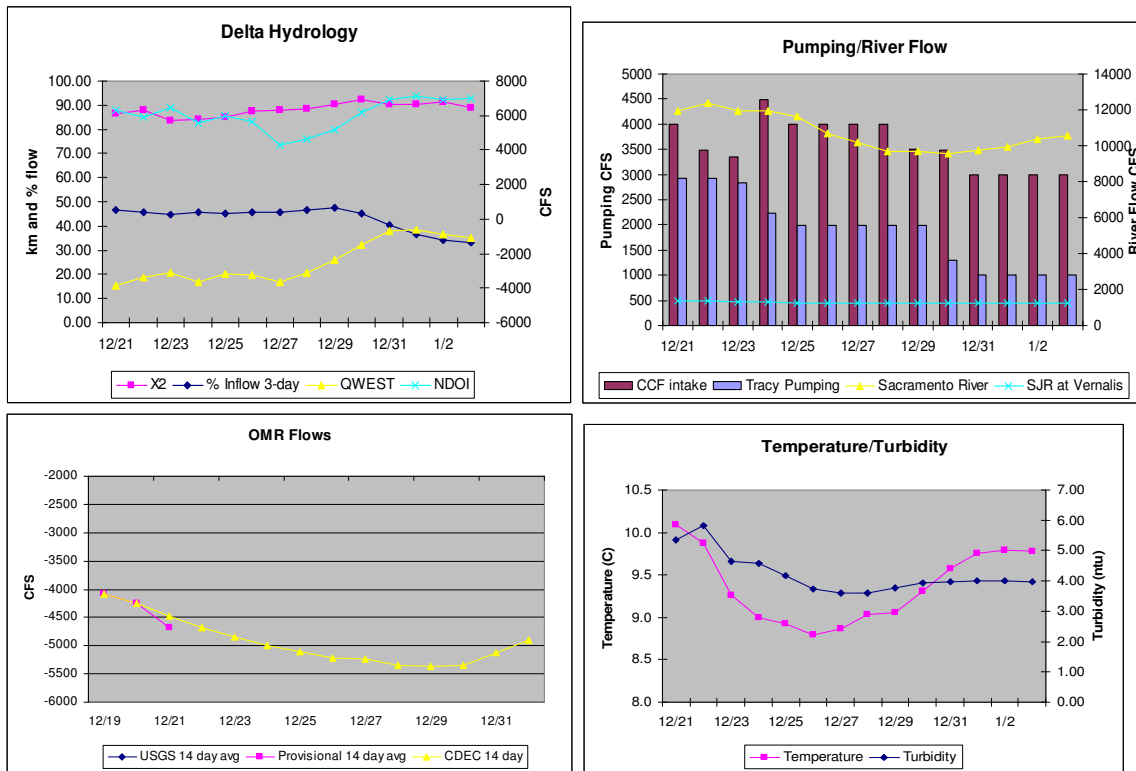
Basis for recommendation:

The 2008 OCAP biological opinion indicates that RPA Component 1, Action 1(b) may be implemented on or after December 20, based upon two criteria:

1. Turbidity - 3 day, 3 station average turbidity at Prisoner's Point, Holland Tract, and Victoria Canal exceed 12 NTU.
2. Salvage - 3 days of delta smelt salvage at either facility or if the cumulative daily salvage count is above the risk threshold based upon the "daily salvage index" approach. Based on a FMWT index value of 7 through November 2009, the daily salvage index value is 4.

Neither of these criteria have been met, so no recommendation was made.

Once triggered, OMR flows must be maintained no more negative than -2000cfs on a 14-day running average and no more negative than -2500cfs on a 5-day running average.



WEEKLY ADVICE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME FOR LONGFIN SMELT

Recommendation for week of January 4:

The Smelt Working Group does not have a longfin smelt recommendation at this time.

Basis for recommendation:

The aforementioned 2009 State Water Project 2081 for longfin smelt states that advice to the DFG Director shall be based on:

1. Adult Salvage – total adult (≥ 80 mm) longfin smelt salvage (SWP+CVP) for December through February > 5 times the Fall Midwater Trawl longfin smelt annual abundance index.
2. Adult abundance, distribution or other information indicates that OMR flow advice is warranted.
3. Larva distribution in the Smelt Larva Survey or the 20mm Survey finds longfin smelt larvae present at 8 of 12 Central and South Delta sampling stations in 1 survey (809, 812, 815, 901, 902, 906, 910, 912, 914, 915, 918, 919).
4. Larva catch per tow exceeds 15 longfin smelt larvae or juveniles in 4 or more of the 12 survey stations listed.

No adult longfin smelt have been salvaged since December 1, 2009 and the closest adult longfin smelt to the salvage facilities detected by the Bay Study in December sampling was a single fish from the San Joaquin River west of the Antioch Bridge. Data from the Fall Midwater Trawl has not yet been released for evaluation by the group. The Smelt Larva Survey initiated its first survey of 2010 on January 4 and data are not expected for a week.

If either adult condition triggers advice, advice is limited to OMR flows maintained at no more negative than -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average and an initial 5-day running average is no more negative than -6,250 cfs. If either larva/juvenile condition triggers advice, advice can restrict OMR flow levels to between -1,250 and -5000 cfs on a 14-day running average and the 5-day running average is within 25 percent of the required OMR flow.